



Brownfields 2009 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Bonner County, ID

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Recovery Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, and create or save millions of jobs. This law provided stimulus funds to the Brownfields Program to award grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites. Under this law, EPA will provide financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants.

Community Description

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment coalition grant. IDEQ's coalition partners are Bonner County and the Cities of Kootenai, Ponderay, and Sandpoint (combined population 41,050). IDEQ is targeting its assessment efforts on Bonner County, a rural area located in the forested slopes of the Rocky Mountains West in northern Idaho. The county is situated on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, one of the largest inland lakes in North America and the largest natural lake in Idaho. The coalition's efforts will focus on a two-mile stretch of the Lake Pend Oreille shoreline. Contamination in this area is the result of the rapid expansion of natural resource extraction industries, which began in 1896 after the completion of the Northern Pacific's railroad corridor. Post-railroad industrial activities included smelting and refining activities, lumber mill operations, and illegal dumping. The per capita incomes of residents in the target areas are below the national average, and poverty rates range from 15.5 to 18.7 percent. Assessment of brownfields is expected to provide information about contamination and help expedite redevelopment along the shoreline corridor.

Assessment Grant

\$480,000 for hazardous substances (Recovery Act Funding)

\$170,000 for petroleum (Recovery Act Funding)

EPA has selected the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for a brownfields assessment coalition grant. Community-wide grant funds will be used to perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments for hazardous substances and petroleum contamination, and to conduct soil, groundwater, and surface water sampling. Grant funds also will be used to prepare a risk assessment, conduct cleanup planning, and support community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Team

(206) 553-7299

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Web site

(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-washington-idaho-oregon-and-alaska>)

Grant Recipient: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, ID
(208) 666-4632

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.